Illegal felling of trees in Simlipal

2167. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal felling of trees in Simlipal reserved forest in Orissa by jungle mafias is rampant;

(b) if so, the number and types of trees felled during the last one year;

(c) the number of elephants being hired by Government to guard the jungle; and

(d) the method to be used by mahavats of elephants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, sir.

(b) As reported by the State Government, illicit felling of trees in Simlipal forest is mainly confined to Sal, Pijasal, Sissoo, Kurum etc. and during 2000-2001 (upto June 2001), 1637 cases were booked involving 5621.59 cu. ft. of timber, 161.15 Qtl of fire-wood and 460 Nos of poles.

(c) To start with 3 elephants are proposed to be procured for this purpose during this year.

(d) Traditional methods that have been used by mahavats for patrolling of forests by elephants will be used in Simlipal Tiger Reserve also.

Assistance from Norway to upgrade J & K Forests

2168. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Norway has offered aid to upgrade the degraded forests in J&K;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many global institutions have given aid to restore Dal Lake in Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what are the details for both the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Centrally sponsored environment projects

2169. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored environment projects launched in different States during the last three years;

(b) the total amount provided by Government during this period;

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard; and

(d) the details of such projects proposed to be launched in various States during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The details of Centrally Sponsored Environment Projects launched in different States during the last three years, the total amount provided by the Government during this period and the details of achievements made in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(d) The spillover component of the ongoing projects would be continued beyond 9th Plan. The nature and details of fresh projects will be determined on the basis of the strategy, policy framework and allocations during 10th Plan.